

TRENTON FOLEY — TRIBUTE

Statement

HON SANDRA CARR (Agricultural) [6.27 pm]: Today, 10 May, is my cousin Trenton Foley's birthday. He would have been 40 years old today. On Sunday, 7 May, at about 1.30 pm, he passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends and his beautiful loving son, Floyd.

Trenton was diagnosed with brain cancer in July last year. Not long prior to that he was a tradie—a classic, quintessential, lovable Aussie larrikin. He was loved and adored by friends and family. He had been up working on a roof and he had just been to get his eyes checked, but was told to go to the doctor instead. He was going back to work to jump back on the roof, or whatever it is tradies do in that industry, and the doctor rang him and said he needed to come back quickly and was surprised he was still walking.

Trenton was a young man who, as I said, was absolutely adored by family and friends. He was a kind-hearted, generous and really fun person. When I turned 50 a little while ago, I had a granny get-down. It was a celebration of the privilege of growing old. Ironically, he turned up there dressed as an old granny. The whole family came along. To spare the horrid details, he dressed in a naked old granny suit. That was Trenton all over. He was always full of fun and always laughing. Every picture you see of him will be with this beautiful big smile on his face and these big sparkling blue eyes. The comments from friends are all about how he was good fun, but he was there for them, too. He was full of compassion and heart and a beautiful family member.

He is survived by his young son, as I said, who started kindy this year, so he got to see his son start kindy. His wife, Marina, is also obviously quite devastated but is dutifully supported by Trenton's family—my aunty and uncle, Polly and Bernie Foley, who are the kindest, most generous people in the world. I adore them. Bernie has worked for Life Education for many, many years as its executive officer and they have worked with the Spina Bifida Association. Trenton's sister, Chantal, was born with spina bifida. They have given a lot of themselves to support groups and people who were also born with and are living with spina bifida.

I feel like there could be no less deserving family than the Foley family to experience this. They are so kind and giving. My Aunty Polly has worked as an education assistant all her life. Every time you see her, you can hear the love and dedication; she talks about the kids all the time and remembers all of them. They still come and see her at her house at the end of the year. I have never seen that happen to that extent for any other teacher. The house is filled with gifts from those kids because my aunty and uncle are kind, generous and beautiful people. They really are my favourite family in the whole world. Whenever I was in Perth at different times throughout my life, I would always stay with them. They probably did not realise just how much I adored them and how I used to seek out going to stay with them because they were always so kind and always made me feel great to be around. I am sure that is a huge part of the reason their daughter, Chantal, and Trenton were always such beautiful, kind and loving people.

I wanted to celebrate Trenton's life today. He will be forever 39. He made an amazing impact on the people around him. I feel quite confident that if Trenton had parting words to share with people, it would be about celebrating the gift of life, grabbing every opportunity to spend all those moments you can with family and to not forget that we are here for a good time, not a long time. I would like to make sure that Trenton is looking after my old nan up there—"Midnight Maude", as we used to like to call her. She was great fun, too. On Sunday night, I had a Kraken rum—that was one of his favourites—to celebrate his life. We love you, Trenton.

Members: Hear, hear!